

## OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MINUTES

JANUARY 28, 2010  
Newington Town Hall  
7:00 P.M.

### I. Roll Call

Members Present: Mr. Nagel, Mrs. Nasinnyk, Mrs. Anest, Mr. Lenares, Mr. Block, Mrs. Wojtowicz, Mrs. Conway, Mr. Marcimczyk, Mr. Bottalico.

Staff: Town Planner, Ed Meehan.

### II. Election of Officers:

For Chairman: Mr. Block nominated Mr. Bowen to serve as Chairman, seconded by Mrs. Nasinnyk and unanimously approved.

For Vice Chairman: Mrs. Nasinnyk nominated Mrs. Wojtowicz to serve as Vice Chairman, seconded by Mr. Lenares and unanimously approved.

For Secretary: Mrs. Nasinnyk nominated Mrs. Conway to serve as Secretary, seconded by Mrs. Wojtowicz and unanimously approved.

### III. Summary of Vacant Land and Existing Protected Open Space

Ed Meehan summarized Newington's Land Use status as of July 2009. \*

Developed Land Area	6799 acres	81%
Protected Open Space	899 acres	11%
Vacant Land Area	685 acres	<u>8%</u>
		100%

Vacant useable land equals only 3% of the Town's total area.

Also adding to the Town's protected open space area are community facilities and institutional uses such as school properties, Veteran's Administration land and State of Connecticut parcels. The largest property is controlled by CCSU, former I-291 land, approximately 136 acres.

It is estimated that approximately 60%, (80 acres) of the CCSU property may be restricted by flood hazard and wetlands limitations.

\* Reference sources see: Draft 2020 Plan of Conservation and Development "Land Use in Newington" pages 10-11.

#### **IV. Committee Mission Statement**

After discussion, Mr. Block moved that the Committee adopt the following Mission Statement,

“Recognizing the Town Council’s desire to increase the amount of ‘protected open space’ within the borders of Newington, the mission of the Open Space Committee is to identify, evaluate and present to the Council all potential sites to be acquired, preserved and/or protected for open space. Its further charge is to seek out all potential funding sources to include but not limited to; private grants; local, state and federal government monies, and any other resource which may help this committee fulfill its stated mission. The Commission will also research and consider establishing a Land Trust for the benefit of preserving open space.”

“The initial emphasis of this Committee will be to explore all avenues available to preserving ‘Cedar Mountain’ as open space for all future generations.”

Seconded by Mr. Bottalico and unanimously approved.

#### **V. Discussion of future meeting schedule**

Committee members agreed to meet Thursday, February 4, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. At this meeting, a Cedar Mountain property owners’ contact list and a draft letter inviting them to meet with the Committee will be presented for discussion.

Carol Wojtowicz will try to make contact with a person to come to the Committee’s next meeting to talk about Land Trusts. Ed Meehan will research Land Trust resources and provide this information to the Committee.

A schedule of future meeting dates will be discussed on February 4<sup>th</sup> when Chairman Bowen is present. The Committee agreed that the agenda format should provide for Public Participation both at the beginning and end of each meeting and all meetings will be tape recorded.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Submitted,

Edmund J. Meehan  
Town Planner